

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, UR, US

SUBJECT: BURGLARIES OF SOVIET EMBASSY APARTMENTS AND OFF-
THE-COMPOUND OFFICES

REFS: (A) STATE 180320, (B) STATE 186078

1. EARLY IN MORNING AUG 8, THE GLOVER PARK APARTMENT OF
SOVIET EMBASSY ATTACHE VIKTOR M. KUZNETSOV WAS BURGLARIZED.
BURGLAR AWOKE KUZNETSOV'S WIFE WHO GOT A BRIEF GLIMPSE OF
HIM BEFORE HE FLED WITH HER PURSE WHICH KUZNETSOVS RE-
COVERED SHORTLY THEREAFTER FROM THE LAWN IN FRONT OF THEIR
APARTMENT BUILDING. POLICE SUBSEQUENTLY NABBED A SUSPECT
ON WHOM THEY FOUND MONEY STOLEN FROM PURSE AND MRS. KUZ-
NETSOV'S DIPLOMATIC I.D. AND TAX CARD. SOVIETS REPORTED
NO OTHER LOSSES.

2. U.S. DISTRICT ATTORNEY FOR D. C. ASKED THE DEPARTMENT
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AUG 10 TO TRANSMIT REQUEST TO SOVEMB THAT KUZNETSOVS APPEAR
AT A SECRET GRAND JURY MEETING TO TESTIFY. DISTRICT ATTORNEY
ARGUED THAT KUZNETSOVS' TESTIMONY WAS ESSENTIAL TO OBTAIN
AN INDICTMENT. ON AUG 11 DEPARTMENT CALLED IN SOVIET
EMBASSY THIRD SECRETARY V. V. VOLKOV AND RELAYED THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S REQUEST, STRESSING THAT IT WAS IN OUR

AND THE SOVIET EMBASSY'S BEST INTERESTS TO COMPLY WITH THIS REQUEST. VOLKOV WOULD NOT GIVE A FORMAL RESPONSE AT THAT TIME. ON AUG 14 SOVIET EMBASSY CALLED US TO ADVISE THAT KUZNETSOVS HAD DECLINED TO WAIVE IMMUNITY FROM HAVING TO TESTIFY AT A CRIMINAL PROCEEDING (ARTICLE 31, PARA TWO OF VIENNA CONVENTION) AND, HENCE, WOULD NOT DO SO AT THE GRAND JURY HEARING. WASHINGTON STAR ON AUG 17 CARRIED AN ARTICLE CONCERNING THE FOREGOING (SENT SEPTTEL), EMPHASIZING SOVIET EMBASSY'S PROHIBITION ON PARTICIPATION BY ITS STAFF IN U.S. CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS, EVEN WHEN A SOVIET HERE HAS BEEN VICTIMIZED.

3. BURGLARY OF KUZNETSOV APARTMENT FOLLOWS CLOSELY ON AT LEAST TWO OTHER BREAK-INS OF SOVIET APARTMENTS AND OFFICES IN WASHINGTON. WE HAVE ALREADY REPORTED JULY 15/16 BURGLARY OF EMBASSY'S FISHERIES OFFICE (REFS A, B). DURING THE SAME PERIOD, A STEREO SET VALUED AT APPROXIMATELY \$200 WAS STOLEN FROM THE QUARTERS OF A SOVIET OFFICIAL (FNU) LEBEDEV ON A TDY ASSIGNMENT TO WASHINGTON. VOLKOV TOLD US THIS THEFT WAS NOT REPORTED TO THE LOCAL POLICE.

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